

P R O C L A M A T I O N

WHEREAS, on March 22, 1972, President Richard Nixon signed into law a measure that amended the Older Americans Act of 1965 and established a national nutrition program for seniors 60 years and older; and

WHEREAS, Meals on Wheels America established the March for Meals campaign in March 2002 to recognize the historic month and, the importance of the Older Americans Act Nutrition Programs, and raise awareness about the escalating problem of senior hunger in America; and

WHEREAS, the 2018 observance of March for Meals celebrates 16 years of providing an opportunity to support Meals on Wheels programs that deliver vital and critical services by donating, volunteering and raising awareness about senior hunger and isolation; and

WHEREAS, Meals on Wheels programs- both congregate and home-delivered-, provided by Senior Services of Alexandria and the City of Alexandria's Division of Aging and Adult Services in Alexandria, Virginia, have served our communities admirably for more than 40 years; and

WHEREAS, volunteers for Senior Services of Alexandria's Meals on Wheels programs in Alexandria, Virginia, are the backbone of the program, and they not only deliver nutritious meals to seniors and individuals with disabilities who are at significant risk of hunger and isolation, but they also are caring, compassionate, and committed to their welfare; and

WHEREAS, Meals on Wheels programs in Alexandria, Virginia, provide nutritious meals to seniors throughout the City of Alexandria, Virginia that help them maintain their health and independence, thereby preventing unnecessary falls, hospitalizations and/or premature institutionalization; and

WHEREAS, Meals on Wheels programs in Alexandria, Virginia, provide a powerful socialization opportunity for millions of seniors to help combat loneliness and isolation; and

WHEREAS, Meals on Wheels programs in Alexandria, Virginia, deserve recognition for the contributions they have made and will continue to make to local communities, our State and our Nation.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Allison Silberberg, as Mayor of Alexandria, Virginia, and on behalf of the Alexandria City Council, do hereby proclaim March 2018 as the:

16th Annual March for Meals Month

And urge every citizen to take this month to honor our Meals on Wheels programs, provided by Senior Services of Alexandria and through the City's Division of Aging and Adult Services, as well as honor the seniors they serve and the volunteers who care for them. Our recognition of, and involvement in, the national 2018 March for Meals can enrich our entire community and help combat senior hunger and isolation in America.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the City of Alexandria to be affixed this 6th day of March 2018.

MAYOR ALLISON SILBERBERG

On behalf of the City Council
of Alexandria, Virginia

ATTEST:

Gloria A. Sitton, CMC City Clerk